

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information communication apparatus, provided in a user device, which is set to be capable of performing communication with outside via a network, comprising:

an information generating section for selecting an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so as to generate purchase information which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device; and

a communication section for opening the purchase information to plural dealers, and for receiving sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user.

2. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said communication section is set to open the purchase information to the plural dealers, and to transmit the purchase information to an auction server which collects the sales information from the respective dealers, and

said communication section is set to receive the sales information of the respective dealers, from the

auction server.

3. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 2, wherein:

said auction server is set to determine a dealer as a successful bidder in accordance with the sales condition transmitted from the respective dealers, and

said auction server is set to inform the communication section of the successful bidder that has been determined.

4. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein said information generating section is set to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of an expendable is required in the user device.

5. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 4, wherein said information generating section is set to generate the purchase information, which indicates that the purchase of the expendable is required in the user device, when an amount of the expendable, left in the user device, becomes less than a predetermined value.

6. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein said information generating section is set to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of a replacement part is required in the user device.

7. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 6, wherein said information generating section is set to generate the purchase information, which indicates that the purchase of the replacement part is required in the user device, when deterioration of the replacement part of the user device becomes more than a predetermined value.

8. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein said information generating section is set to generate purchase information, which indicates that a regular examination is required with respect to the user device.

9. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein said information generating section is set so that the purchase information includes specifying information to specify the user device.

10. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein said information generating section is set to stop generating the purchase information in accordance with an instruction of the user.

11. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein said information generating section is set so that the purchase information includes information that causes a dealer to be determined as a successful bidder.

12. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein said communication section informs the sales information by displaying the sales information.

13. A service providing system comprising an information communication apparatus and an auction server, wherein:

said information communication apparatus, provided in a user device, which is set to perform communication with outside via a network, includes:

an information generating section for selecting an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so as to generate purchase information which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device; and

a communication section for opening the purchase information to plural dealers, and for receiving sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user, and

the communication section being set to open the purchase information to the plural dealers, and to transmit the purchase information to the auction server which collects the sales information from the respective dealers, and

the communication section further being set to receive the sales information of the respective dealers from the auction server, and

said auction server includes:

a server communication section for performing communication with the information communication apparatus;

an opening section for opening the purchase information, transmitted from the information communication apparatus, to the plural dealers;

a collecting section for collecting the sales information from the respective dealers; and

a server controlling section for transmitting the sales information, that has been collected, via the server communication section to the information

communication apparatus.

14. The service providing system set forth in claim 13, wherein:

said server controlling section of said auction server is set to determine a dealer as a successful bidder in accordance with the sales information transmitted from the respective dealers, and

said server controlling section is set to inform the successful bidder to the communication section of the information communication apparatus.

15. The service providing system set forth in claim 14, wherein said server controlling section is set to avoid determining a dealer, who transmits sales information indicative of a sales condition which does not satisfy a predetermined standard value, as the successful bidder.

16. The service providing system set forth in claim 15, wherein said server controlling section is set to inform a specific wholesale shop, which has an article corresponding to the purchase information, of an instruction to provide the article to the user of the user device, in a case where there is no dealer that has transmitted sales information indicative of a sales

condition which satisfies said standard value.

17. The service providing system set forth in claim 16, wherein the information generating section of the information communication apparatus is set so that the purchase information includes information that causes the dealer to be determined as the successful bidder, and said standard value is set in accordance with said information that causes the dealer to be determined as the successful bidder.

18. The service providing system set forth in claim 13, wherein said opening section is set to transmit the purchase information, received from the information communication apparatus, and the sales information, received from the dealers, to a maker of the user device.

19. The service providing system set forth in claim 13, wherein said communication section informs the sales information by displaying the sales information.

20. An information communication apparatus, provided in a user device, which is set to be capable of performing communication with outside via a network, comprising:

an information generating section for selecting a

peripheral device suitable for the user device, so as to generate purchase information which indicates that purchase of the peripheral device is required, in accordance with status of the user device;

a communication section for opening the purchase information to plural dealers, and for receiving sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said peripheral device, from the respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user.

21. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 20, wherein:

said communication section is set to open the purchase information to the plural dealers, and to transmit the purchase information to an auction server which collects the sales information from respective dealers, and

said communication section is further set to receive the sales information of the respective dealers.

22. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 21, wherein:

said auction server is set to determine a dealer as a successful bidder in accordance with the sales information transmitted from the respective dealers, and



said auction server is set to inform the successful bidder, that has been determined, to the communication section.

23. An information communication method for transmitting information of a user device via a network to outside, and for receiving information transmitted from the outside, comprising:

an information generating process for selecting an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so as to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device; and

a communication informing process for opening the purchase information to plural dealers, and for receiving sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user.

24. The information communication method set forth in claim 23, wherein:

said communication informing process is set to open the purchase information to the plural dealers, and to transmit the purchase information to an auction server which collects the sales information from the respective

dealers, and

said communication display process is further set to receive the sales information of the respective dealers from the auction server.

25. The information communication method set forth in claim 24, wherein:

said auction server is set to determine a dealer as a successful bidder in accordance with the sales information transmitted from the respective dealers, and

said communication informing process is set to be informed of the successful bidder determined by the auction server.

26. The information communication method set forth in claim 23, wherein said information generating process generates purchase information, which indicates that purchase of an expendable is required in the user device.

27. The information communication method set forth in claim 26, wherein said information generating process generates the purchase information, which indicates that the purchase of the expendable is required, when an amount of the expendable, left in the user device, becomes less than a predetermined value.

28. The information communication method set forth in claim 23, wherein said information generating process generates purchase information, which indicates that purchase of a replacement part is required in the user device.

29. The information communication method set forth in claim 28, wherein said information generating process generates the purchase information, which indicates that the purchase of the replacement part is required, when deterioration of the replacement part of the user device becomes more than a predetermined value.

30. The information communication method set forth in claim 23, wherein said information generating process generates purchase information, which indicates that a regular examination is required with respect to the user device.

31. An information communication method for transmitting information of a user device via a network to outside, and for receiving information, transmitted from the outside, comprising:

an information generating process for selecting an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so

as to generate purchase information which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device; and

a communication informing process for opening the purchase information to plural dealers, and for receiving sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user, wherein

said information generating process and said communication display process are executed by a computer.

32. An information communication method for transmitting information of a user device via a network to outside, and for receiving information, transmitted from the outside, comprising:

an information generating process for causing an information generating section of an information communication apparatus to select an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so as to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device; and

a communication informing process for causing a communication section of the information communication apparatus to open the purchase information to plural

dealers, and for receiving sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user.

33. An information communication program which actuates a computer as an information generating section and as a communication section, said computer being installed in an information communication apparatus, provided in a user device, which is set to be capable of performing communication with outside via a network, wherein:

said information generating section selects an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so as to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device, and

said communication section opens the purchase information to plural dealers, and receives sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user.

34. An information communication program which makes a computer execute an information generating process and a communication display process, said computer being

installed in an information communication apparatus, provided in a user device, which is set to be capable of performing communication with outside via a network, wherein:

said information generating process selects an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so as to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device, and

said communication informing process opens the purchase information to plural dealers, and receives sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user.

35. A computer-readable recording medium which stores an information communication program which actuates a computer as an information generating section and as a communication display section, said computer being installed in an information communication apparatus, provided in a user device, which is set to be capable of performing communication with outside via a network, wherein:

said information generating section selects an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so

as to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device, and

said communication section opens the purchase information to plural dealers, and receives sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user.

36. A computer-readable recording medium which stores an information communication program, which makes a computer execute an information communication method which includes an information generating process and a communication display process, said computer being installed in an information communication apparatus, provided in a user device, which is set to be capable of performing communication with outside via a network, wherein:

said information generating process selects an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so as to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device, and

said communication informing process opens the purchase information to plural dealers, and receives

sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to inform the sales information to a user.

37. An information communication apparatus, provided in a user device, which is set to be capable of performing communication with outside, comprising:

an information generating section for generating device information concerning the user device;

a communication section for transmitting the device information to plural sending ends, and for receiving reply information with respect to the device information; and

a display section for displaying the reply information.

38. The information communication apparatus set forth in claim 36, wherein:

said information generating section generates purchase application information, which indicates that purchase of an article concerning the user device is required, as the device information, and

said communication section is set to open the purchase application information to plural dealers, and to transmit the purchase application information to an



auction organization that determines a successful bidder in accordance with sales information transmitted by bidders with respect to the purchase application information, and said communication section is further set to receive auction result information which includes successful bidder information and bid information, as reply information, from the auction organization.

39. An information communication method for transmitting information of a user device via a network to outside, and for receiving information, transmitted from the outside, said method making a computer execute (a) an information generating process for selecting an article suitable for maintenance of the user device so as to generate purchase information which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device, and (b) a communication display process for opening the purchase information to plural dealers, and for receiving sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers so as to display the sales information to the user, wherein said communication display process is set to open the purchase information to the plural dealers, and to transmit the purchase information to an auction server which collects the sales information from

the respective dealers, and said communication display process is further set to receive the sales information of the respective dealers from the auction server.

40. The information communication method set forth in claim 39, wherein said auction server is set to determine a dealer as a successful bidder in accordance with the sales conditions transmitted from the respective dealers, and said communication display process is set to be informed of the successful bidder determined by the auction server.

41. An information communication method for transmitting information of a user device via a network to outside, and for receiving information, transmitted from the outside, comprising:

an information generating process for causing an information generating section of an information communication apparatus to select an article suitable for maintenance of the user device, so as to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device; and

a communication display process for causing a communication section of the information communication

apparatus to open the purchase information to plural dealers, and for receiving sales information, which indicate sales conditions of said article, from respective dealers, so as to display the sales information to a user, wherein:

said communication display process is further set to open the purchase information to plural dealers, and to transmit the purchase information to an auction server, which collects the sales information from the respective dealers, and

said communication display process is further set to receive the sales information of the respective dealers from the auction server.

42. The information communication method set forth in claim 41, wherein said auction server is set to determine a dealer as a successful bidder in accordance with the sales conditions transmitted from the respective dealers, and said communication display process is set to be informed of the successful bidder determined by the auction server.

43. An information communication apparatus, provided in a user device, which is set to be capable of performing communication with outside, comprising:

an information generating section for selecting an article suitable for the user device, so as to generate purchase information, which indicates that purchase of the article is required, in accordance with status of the user device; and

a communication section for transmitting the purchase information to plural dealers, and for receiving sales information according to sales conditions of said article from respective dealers, so as to display the sales information to a user.